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25 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Visit of ARPA Representatives R. Casaro
and C. R. Irvine to PIC, 23 March 1959

1. At the request of Major P. Moran, JCS TALENT Center, arrangements were made for the subject meeting with the approval of the CIA TALENT and Operations Security Officers.

2. The object of the visit by Casaro and Irvine was to review the current status of TALENT coverage and to ask questions about its applicability to the geodetic control extension problems which are mounting rapidly as U. S. missile development and deployment proceeds. The representatives were briefed on the details of TALENT exploitation for geodetic purpose at ACIC, St. Louis, and although they appreciate the accomplishments made to date in locating certain targets within a C.E.P. of 1000', they are alarmed by the thought that the senior Air Force intelligence officers and such ranking civilian scientists as Dr. H. York might be assuming that the situation is well in hand and that we will be able to develop from TALENT the missile target data needed by the U. S. They generally feel that the work accomplishment will be too slow and incomplete at best, and that some new, dramatic and big effort is required.

3. The representatives then affirmed that they are pushing for a geodetic package to go into the Vandenberg firing series early in 1960. A geodetic package would include a geodetic camera (high geometric fidelity and lower - 250' resolution), star seekers, attitude indicators, data recording chambers, etc. They also appreciate the fact that the time is already late, and that much has to be done to get the proper receiving factory set up, equipped with computers and technical gear, and staffed by adequate numbers of geodesists, mathematicians, data handlers, maintenance personnel, etc. Plans with regard to these hard facts of life are scarcely beyond the gleam-in-the-eye stage. However, it is interesting to note, at least as Casaro believes it to be true, that ARPA's authority could lead, if so approved and directed, to the taking over or commandeering of some large going facility which could be reoriented and applied to the tasks of a national geodetic data reduction center.

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4. It appears quite clear that Cesaro and Irvine are dedicated, imaginative and capable men who in looking ahead have determined that the missile targeting problem will become one of overwhelming national and international importance. Therefore, they have resolved to do something about it now. The effects of their power and methods of operation cannot be estimated here by me. They treat CIA-PIC with respect and seem to feel that we have experience and abilities which would be helpful to them as they develop their concepts and program. To obtain even more data on our computer, data management program and optical-mechanical hardware they have requested a return visit and briefing on Friday, 27 March 1959.

ARTHUR C. LUNDHAL
Director,
Photographic Intelligence Center

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